

MAY 20 1982

Immediate Funding Request for Dead Creek  
Sauget, Illinois

Russell E. Diefenbach, Chief  
Remedial Response Section II

Hans Crump, Chief  
Response Operations Section

We are requesting at this time to amend our May 6, 1982, request for the subject site to include an additional \$25,000 for fencing the site. The need for the additional funds became apparent after Mr. Michael O'Toole, OSC, recalculated his original estimate. This will increase the project ceiling to \$75,000. Please contact Mr. O'Toole at FTS 386-3008 if you have any questions.

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**MAY 6 1982**

Request for Funding Approval  
Immediate Removal Action -Dead Creek

Russell E. Diefenbach, Chief  
Remedial Response Section II

Hans Crump, Chief  
Response Operation Section

We would appreciate an expeditious response to the following request for funding to carry out an immediate site security action at the Dead Creek site in Sauget, Illinois. We are in close cooperation with the Illinois Environmental Protection Agency (IEPA) regarding the proposed action.

Fund Authorization Report  
Dead Creek, Sauget, Illinois

- 1a. OSC's name, Region and telephone number  
Michael O'Toole, Region V, (312)886-3008
- 1b. State Contact  
Jim Reid, IEPA (217)782-6760
- 2a. Name and Location of Site  
Dead Creek, Sauget, St. Clair County, Illinois
- 2b. State Official Requesting Assistance  
Richard Carlson, Director, IEPA
3. Nature of the Incident

Dead Creek is located in the towns of Sauget and Cahokia in St. Clair County, Illinois (Figure 1). The creek supplies drainage for part of the Mississippi River flood plain known as the American Bottoms. It starts in the town of Sauget and flows southwest through Cahokia until it discharges into the Prairie Du Pont Floodway. The Floodway in turn discharges to the Cahokia Chute of the Mississippi River (Figure 2).

During the past forty years Dead Creek has received industrial wastes from a variety of industries including the Harold Waggoner Trucking Company, Monsanto Corporation, Midwest Rubber Reclaiming Company, Chemical Warfare Service Division of the U.S. Army, Lewin Metals Company (now the Cerro Copper Company), American Zinc (now AMAX Zinc), LuBright Refinery (now a Mobil Oil Marketing Terminal) and Empire Disposal. A majority of these discharges were eliminated prior to 1971 when a culvert under New Queeny Avenue was plugged. These industrial wastes are now discharged to the Sauget Wastewater Treatment plant.

The IEPA became aware of this site in May 1980 when local citizens reported that the mostly-dry creek bed would periodically catch fire. It wasn't until late August 1980, that IEPA learned that a nearby resident's dog died of chemical burns after rolling in the creek bed. At this point IEPA began testing the soil and the groundwater in both Dead Creek and a quarry pond adjacent and connected to the creek. IEPA's analyses revealed gross contamination of the surficial soils in a half mile stretch of the creek bed between New Queeny Avenue and Judith Lane (Figure 2). The creek was blocked at Judith Lane which prevented contaminated waters from being transported downstream. Concentration of several metals including barium, copper, lead, nickel, phosphorous and zinc exceeded several thousand parts per million (ppm). Polychlorinated biphenyls (10000 ppm), dichlorobenzene (12000 ppm), xylene (540 ppm), trichlorobenzene (3700 ppm), chloronitrobenzene (240 ppm), biphenyl (9000 ppm), dichlorophenol (170 ppm), alkylbenzenes (370 ppm), naphthalenes (650 ppm), and hydrocarbons (21000 ppm) were also identified in a few of the samples.

#### 4a. Why action is needed at this time?

In September 1980, after discovering the extent of the surficial soil contamination IEPA with the cooperation of the Illinois Department of Transportation (IDOT) installed 7000 feet of snow fence around the creek between New Queeny Avenue and Judith Lane thereby limiting public access to the site.

In March 1982 USEPA visited the site and found the snow fence trampled down in several spots. Moreover, only one warning sign was visible along the entire portion of the creek. Organic odors were evident near Queeny Avenue and pools of polluted water (oil films) were found in the northern portion of Dead Creek. Recent chemical dumping was also evident 100 feet west of Dead Creek, 100 feet south of New Queeny Avenue and 100 feet south of Dead Creek on the eastern bank. Local residents also reported to the USEPA that children frequent the creek and ride motorcycles through the bottom. With the summer months approaching IEPA feels it is necessary to secure the site more adequately. IDOT does not have the necessary funds to reinstall the fence.

#### 4b. State Participation

IEPA has spent many hours and resources investigating this site over the past two years. The Illinois Attorney General has also been trying to develop a case against the waste haulers and generators to clean up the site. They also have identified the following landowners:

## West side of Dead Creek

Harold Weise  
Myrtle Hankins  
Moto Gas, Inc.

Mineweld, Inc.  
Donald Elsaesser, et. al.

## East side of Dead Creek

Harold Wagonner  
Thomas Owen

As of this writing, the IEPA has not yet contacted any of the landowners, the waste haulers or the generators regarding cleanup demands.

5. Verification that the situation presents an imminent threat to the public health and welfare.

IEPA has characterized the Dead Creek site as a threat to public health and welfare from direct contact until the site is adequately secured.

6. How much money is needed to support response activities?

Based on an approximate 7000 feet of fence, it is estimated that response activities would cost approximately \$50,000. The response activities proposed would include:

- 1) Installing 7000 feet of fence and a locking gate.
- 2) Installing warning signs.

7. Potential Contractors

Numerous contractors exist which have the technical expertise and capability to carry out this action. However, the OSC has not made a final selection.

8. Project Schedule and Funding Request

Work should be started as soon as possible and should take no longer than 30 days to complete.

9. Federal Enforcement Actions

No Federal enforcement actions have occurred to date. Mr. Thomas Daggett, Region V attorney, (312) 353-2094, has been assigned to this project. Oral or written demands will be issued to the generator, haulers and landowners prior to the initiation of any response activities on site.

10. State Actions

As discussed above, the State has aggressively pursued initiating action at the site, but currently has no funds available to secure this site.

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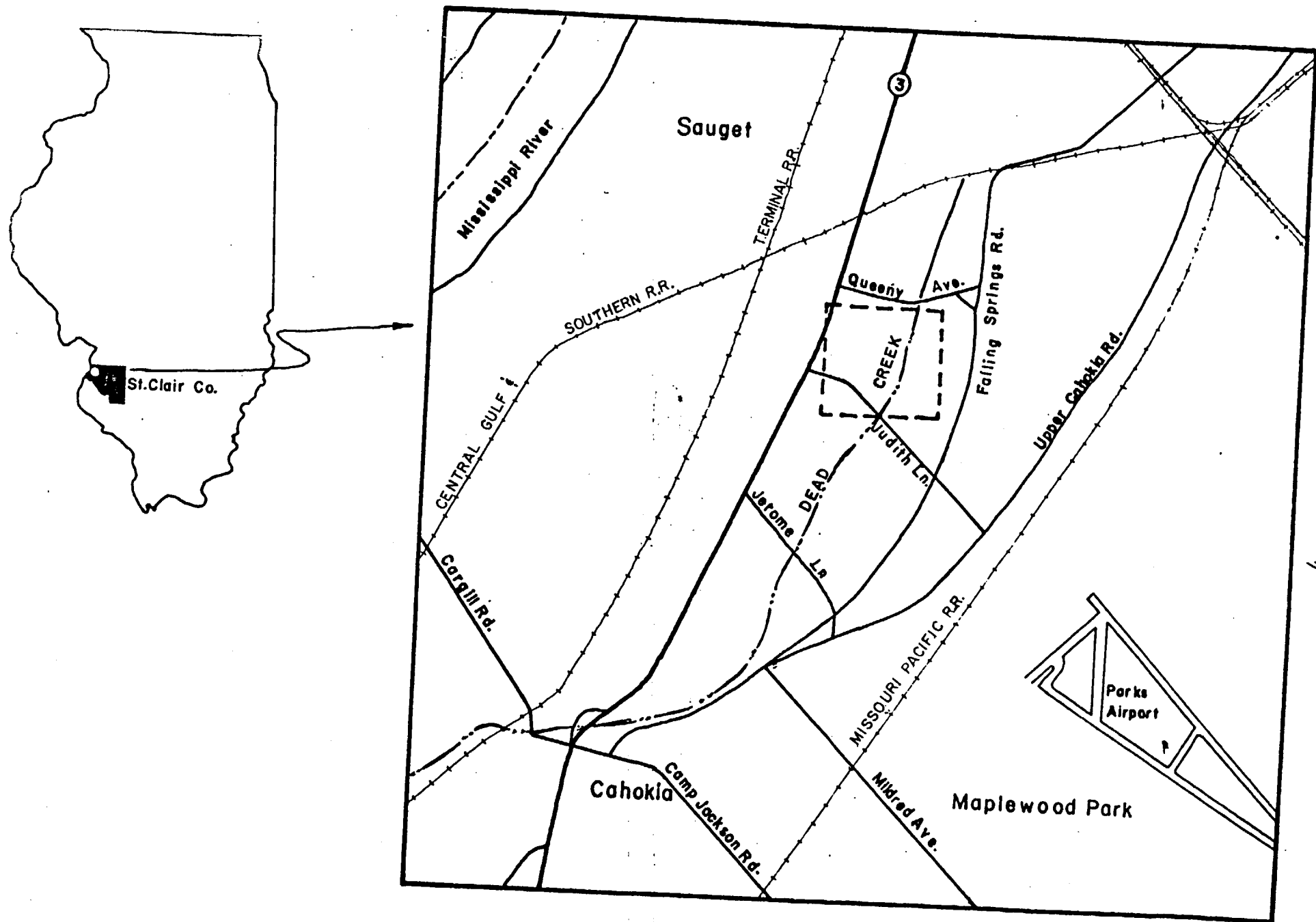


Figure 1. Location of Dead Creek and study site (square)



I.1  
4/14/82

DATE: April 14, 1982  
TO: Rene' Van Someran  
FROM: Donald Woods  
SUBJECT: TDD F5-8203-2-09 (Dead Creek)

This memo is to review and discuss the findings of an air monitoring survey conducted March 23, 1982, at Cahokia Dead Creek - TDD #F5-8203-02-09. The purpose of this survey was to determine if fugitive emissions are leaving this site (useful for Mitre modeling).

This survey involved the use of an Organic Vapor Analyzizer (OVA) and HNU, Photo-ionizer, with a 10.2ev and 11.7ev lamps. In addition drager detector tubes for phosphine gas were used, along with standard site entry equipment (Explosimeter, Oxygen Indicator, Radiation Survey Meter, and Radiation Dosimeters). The team consisted of Eileen Black, April Richards, Claude Mays, and Don Woods.

Survey findings would indicate that a small, but measurable, concentration of organic vapors, and gases are present in the breathing zone (approximately 5' above ground) when on dead creek bed. This concentration increases as you near the creek bed. HNU Readings, with 11.7ev probe, were approximately 4-5ppm above background in the breathing zone area. In the same area, the HNU with the 10.2ev probe, showed a 0.2ppm increase, and the OVA had an increase of 0.2ppm to 0.5ppm. Phosphine gas was not detected.

Near the north end of Dead Creek, just south of Queeny, and adjacent to Ruan Transport Co. a 3" buried pipe was noted to enter and empty into the side of the creek slope. A small stream of colorless, turbit and oily liquid came from this pipe, and formed a small pool.

Instruments showed the following: (At Breathing Zone) HNU/11.7ev = 9ppm; HNU/10.2ev = 2ppm; OVA = 0.3ppm. (6" from the Liquids' Surface) HNU/11.7ev = 400ppm; HNU/10.2ev = 900ppm; OVA = 350ppm. Samples were taken and the OVA Chromatograph showed a very high retention time. It was also noted that the outside of the sample bottle had a fuel oil smell. Therefore, truck fuel (#2 diesel) seems to be one probable component.

This site strongly appears to release fugitive organic vapors and gases. However, concentrations seem low, and volumes are unmeasured. This site should be considered for a positive scope in mitre modeling.

DN:rp 